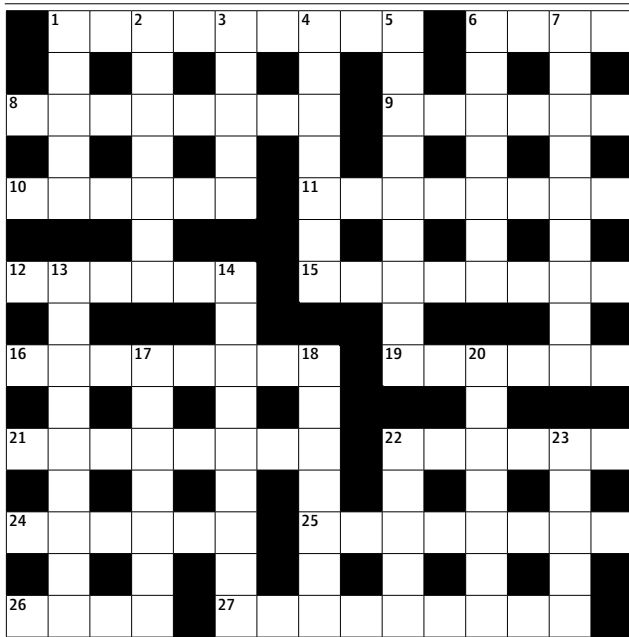


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,623 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Signal employees to uphold the standard (9)
- 6 They look round for bears without fear (4)
- 8 Out of money? Barter! (8)
- 9 It sounds bad – not so, he’s in the pink (6)
- 10 Very large game bird (6)
- 11 Car going round with my own control (8)
- 12 Capital resort to give Susan a break (6)
- 15 Let a case get out of hand and snowball (8)
- 16 Conflict in which countercharges may be decisive? (5,3)
- 19 There’s a cello playing in this place (6)
- 21 Elated, having been promoted (8)
- 22 An animal – it has one foot drawn back (6)
- 24 He went round filling potholes (6)
- 25 Done to death? (8)
- 26 Port some dread entering (4)
- 27 Amend paper said to go by the board (9)

Down

- 1 Gets one’s bearings in difficulties (5)
- 2 Sticks public notices around this place (7)

- 3 A gritty Scot? (5)
- 4 Mean to declare before very long (7)
- 5 Extremist is crushed in a final act (9)
- 6 A number making loud noise during examination (7)
- 7 Teams able to move into the lead, say? (4,5)
- 13 Aphrodite’s emaciated form (9)
- 14 Neat and dry (9)
- 17 Yellow bird (7)
- 18 Remedy may be to change gear (7)
- 20 Take suitable remedy externally (7)
- 22 Give birth with assistance (5)
- 23 Her and it: conjunction or pronoun? (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,616

